



# Pleasant Park Public School Council

564 Pleasant Park Road, Ottawa Ontario, K1H 5N1 Phone: (613) 733-5253



## Pleasant Park School Council Meeting Minutes

January 26 at 6:45pm

1. Welcome, it's nice to see you here! Land Acknowledgement by Kim.
2. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
  - a. Emily motions to accept the Agenda, and Lisa seconds.
  - b. Lisa motions to approve the Minutes from November 24, 2021, and Emily seconds.
3. Financial Report (Angela Campbell): Detailed Financial Report is posted on the website.
  - i. Opening Cash: \$8,268
  - ii. Amount raised: \$1,114
  - iii. Amount spent: (\$848)
  - iv. Amount Committed: (\$3,900)
  - v. Current balance: \$4,634
4. Council Update
  - a. School Council Website Update (David Vlasblom): The website has been extensively updated. References to "Parent Council" have been replaced with "School Council", and a new "Fundraising" tab has been added.
  - b. Outdoor Initiatives Update (Lisa Scott): Survey to teachers has gone out and results have come back. The survey results and other key materials will be posted on the website.
  - c. Diversity and Inclusion Update (Juliet Knapton):
    - i. Lunar New Year – 2021 OCV School Council Diversity Committee developed online programming and resources that are ready to be shared with any teacher that is interested. Chinese Embassy had previously offered to donate flags and paraphernalia. Juliet will send info to VP and, can contact the Embassy if there is interest from teachers.
    - ii. Green Egg Studios has offered low-cost photos as an alternative to school photos. This can help a child feel more included. Offer made that if



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any child cannot afford a school photo that the D&I Committee would be happy to donate to the cost for that child. Megan will consider.

5. Decision Items

- a. Funding Requests: None

6. Administration's Update

- a. New Principal will be starting February 1 – Mark Cruise. Current Principal Vivian sends thanks and best wishes for the future. Principal Mark Cruise makes introductions.
- b. Photo Day February 15; retakes planned for March 25. For families cannot afford photos, support will be provided on a case-by-case basis.
- c. Several HEPA filters have been installed in the school. Stricter COVID protocols have been implemented. Rapid test kits have been distributed to all families.
- d. Parents no longer need to report symptoms consistent with COVID-19, but rather isolate if there are symptoms.
- e. There have been two class closures this month. There is a nine-step program for determining closures. Closures are normally for one day, and synchronous learning will be provided where possible.
- f. Report cards will go out in February.

7. Next school council meeting - February 23 at 6:45

8. Adjournment was at 7:45pm.



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Admin Report to School Council - January 26, 2022

Hi everyone! We are so thrilled to have our students and staff back to in-person learning and sincerely hope everyone is keeping well, and able to navigate the significant public health changes we are all facing. We really appreciate your flexibility and support.

There are a few things I'd like to share, and I welcome any questions.

We have been able to add some additional HVAC systems and anticipate more to come. At this time, we have systems in all portables, all kindergarten classes, our isolation room, and common areas such as the library, staffroom and gym.

We have gone back to stricter COVID protocols in school, much the same as we had in place a year ago. This includes distancing and quiet in the halls, silent nutrition breaks, while masks are off and students are eating, and many reminders about cohorting on the yard. Students are responding well, and are quite used to these routines.

We received and have sent home two rapid test kits to all staff and students. The instructions from OPH have also been shared. The idea is to help students and staff get back to school sooner if the tests are negative, 24 hours apart, and symptoms are improving. At this time, we are not reporting positive cases or tracing. There is a place to report to the school board, but it is not mandatory. It's up to families to follow the OPH guidelines for isolation.

We had to close our two grade 5 classes for one day last week. I wanted to share the process with you so you understand the circumstances. We have a process to follow that involves about 9 steps when considering the last resort of class closures. Essentially, we must make our decision by around 6 pm, as any communication to families must go out by 8 pm. We go through apply to education, the job board, and calling occasional teachers to try to fill positions. If it remains unfilled, and we don't have any internal coverage, we need to close the class and move to an asynchronous day for students. Due to the fact that we are an immersion site, our students have several contact teachers, so it is possible that one/some teachers are able to provide synchronous instruction, but this is on a case by case basis.

Report cards go home electronically on February 16th. We understand that due to the many interruptions, and the challenges with virtual learning, that many of our students are behind. Staff are assessing at grade level, so you may see lower marks. Please don't panic! Focus on the next steps suggested, and the importance of strong learning skills. We are doing our best to program for students at their current levels, and to identify students who would benefit from intervention strategies such as additional practice reading in both languages. It will be important that our students don't feel stress or anxiety which will interfere with their progress. Friday, February 18th is a PA day, no school for students.

We are pleased to welcome Mark Cruise as Principal, February 1st, and Megan will stay on as Vice Principal. I will be available to support the transition until the end of next week. It has been an absolute pleasure working with all of you, and your children! Thank you for all your support and I sincerely wish you all the best!